WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for providing secure access to a message on a digital device using a screen saver, the method comprising:

activating the screen saver if no activity is detected within a predefined period of time;

determining if a message has been received;

determining whether the screen saver is active;

identifying a message notification configuration if a message is received and the screen saver is active, wherein the message notification configuration identifies at least one user-defined destination at which a user is to be notified;

notifying the user of the received message at the destination;

executing an authorization routine to determine whether the user has entered a correct authorization code; and

providing the message to the user at the destination without disabling the screen saver if the user has entered the correct authorization code.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying the message to the user without executing the authorization routine if the screen saver is not active.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein providing the message to the user at the destination includes determining if the message is to be delivered as a voice message or as a text message, and converting the message to a voice message if required.

4.   The message of claim 3 wherein the destination is a mobile device, and wherein providing the message to the user at the destination includes sending the message through a network.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the network includes a public branch exchange.

6.   The method of claim 1 wherein providing the message to the user without disabling the screen saver includes displaying the email in a pop-up window that is accessible while the screen saver is active.

7.   The method of claim 6 wherein the pop-up window includes a plurality of message buttons that enable the user to respond to the message while the screen saver is active.

8.   The method of claim 7 wherein the message can be deleted only after deactivating the screen saver.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein the entered authorization code is a biometric identifier, and wherein executing the authorization routine includes comparing the entered biometric identifier to a stored biometric identifier.

10.   A method for providing secure access to messages on a digital device, the method comprising:

monitoring an email system for a message;

determining whether a message has been received or a predefined period of time has elapsed without user activity;

if a message has been received, determining whether the message meets at least one predefined criterion;

activating a screen saver if the message meets the at least one predefined criterion or if the predefined period of time has elapsed without user activity;

checking at least one configuration setting to identify a user-defined action for the received message; and

notifying the user of the received message based on the configuration setting; and

providing the received message to the user without deactivating the screen saver.

11.   The method of claim 11 wherein the predefined criterion is a priority of the received message.

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising enabling the user to respond to the message while the screen saver is active.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the user-defined action includes forwarding the message to a destination identified by the user.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the destination is a mobile device, and wherein forwarding the message includes sending the message through an intermediate network.

15. A system for providing secure access to a messages using a screen saver, the system comprising:

a processor;

a memory accessible to the processor; and

a plurality of instructions stored in the memory for execution by the processor, the instructions including:

an instruction for activating a screen saver if no activity is detected within a predefined period of time;

an instruction for determining if a message has been received;

an instruction for determining whether the screen saver is active;

an instruction for retrieving a message notification configuration if a message is received and the screen saver is active, wherein the message notification configuration identifies at least one user-defined destination at which a user is to be notified;

an instruction for notifying the user of the received message at the destination;

an instruction for executing an authorization routine to determine whether the user has entered a correct authorization code; and

an instruction for providing the message to the user at the destination without disabling the screen saver if the user has entered the correct authorization code.

16. The system of claim 15 further comprising an instruction for displaying the message to the user without executing the authorization routine if the screen saver is not active.

17.   The system of claim 15 wherein providing the message to the user without disabling the screen saver includes displaying the email in a pop-up window that is accessible while the screen saver is active.

18.   The system of claim 17 wherein the pop-up window includes a plurality of message buttons that enable the user to respond to the message while the screen saver is active.

19.   The system of claim 18 wherein the message can be deleted only after deactivating the screen saver.

20.   The method of claim 15 wherein the system further comprises email software.